

**Divisional Weekly Report**  
**1/17/22**

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**AIR AND RADIATION DIVISION**

**Items for the Administrator's action:** None currently

**Significant Items that the Regional Administrator signed:** None currently

**Hot Topics:** None currently

**Past Week:**

RSFLAG and Hurricanes Irma and Maria

EPA Region 2 staff participated in the RSFLG Energy Subgroup staff level meeting. HUD noted at the end of January there will be a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Government of Puerto Rico to formalize the agencies' commitment to aligning HUD and FEMA funding with long-term resilience and renewable energy objectives.

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

It was also noted that Gretchen Sierra-Zorita, Associate Director for Puerto Rico and the Territories, The White House would like to participate in the SES level RSFLG Energy subgroup meetings. Additionally, the Department of Interior is going to set up a meeting at the beginning of February (2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>), of the sub-group agencies, to meet with the Governor of the US Virgin Islands when he is in DC. There might be virtual capabilities in these meetings. (POC: Juan Gutierrez, Hector Velez and Rabi Kieber)

### **EPA No Longer Requires Emissions Offsets for Construction Emissions for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Wind Energy Projects**

On October 20, 2021, EPA Region 1 reopened the public comment period on the revised draft permit for South Fork, an OCS Wind Energy Project (WEP) offshore Massachusetts, for the purpose of removing the requirement that the facility obtains emissions credits to offset the thousands of tons of non-attainment air pollutants that result during construction of the OCS WEP. This new policy of no longer requiring offsets for the construction emissions of OCS WEPs was established by HQ. The public comment period for South Fork ended December 6, 2021, and R1 received supportive comments about not requiring offsets for construction emissions.

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

On 1/12/2022, ARD was assigned a controlled correspondence that was

sent to Administrator Regan for a response on behalf of EPA. Ms. Gouri Edlich, a Chairwoman of the Citizens for the Preservation of Wainscott (CPW) voices her concerns about the South Fork wind project transmission cable that transmits energy from the South Fork WEP to the substation through a residential community in East Hampton, NY, and EPA's proposal to not require emission credits to offset the construction phase emissions of WEP. ARD forwarded the correspondence to R1 for a coordinated response. A meeting with OAQPS, OGC, R1 and R2 occurred 1/13/2022 to discuss a coordinated response. (Contact: Viorica Petriman x 4021)

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

### **Status of OCS Air Permits for the OCS Wind Energy Projects Offshore NJ and NY:**

**Ocean Wind WEP**, will be located about 15 miles east of Atlantic City, NJ. It will include 98 wind turbines (WT), and 3 offshore substations (OS), and is expected to generate about 1,000 MW. Ocean Wind submitted to EPA R2 its Notice of Intent (NOI) to submit an OCS air application on 9/14/2021. An initial OCS air application is expected by 3/29/2022, and the final permit is anticipated to be issued by 6/29/2023.

**Atlantic Shores WEP**, will be located about 12 miles east of Atlantic City, NJ, and include 230 WT, 10 OS, and is expected to generate about 2,800 MW. Atlantic Shores submitted EPA R2 its NOI to submit an OCS air application on 12/22/2021. An initial OCS air application is expected by 6/1/2022, and the final permit is anticipated to be issued by 12/29/2023.

**Empire Wind WEP**, will be located about 14 miles southeast of Long Island, NY and 19.5 miles east of Long Branch, NJ. It will include 174 WT and 2 OS and is expected to generate about 2,100 MW. Empire Wind is expected to submit to EPA R2 its NOI on 3/10/2022. An initial OCS air application is expected by 6/10/2022, and the final permit is anticipated to be issued by 9/8/2023. (Contact: Viorica Petriman x 4021)

### **2015 Ozone Transport Rule**

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

**Confidential Items:** None currently

**Upcoming Major Milestones:**

Site	Milestone (SIPs)	Project Manager	Projected Date
	Proposed Action – NY regulations for distributed generation (Part 222), and incinerators (Part 219).		January 2022

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

	Proposed Action - NY Regulations for “Fuel Consumption & Use – Sulfur Limitations” (Subpart 225-1), “Fuel Consumption & Use – Waste Fuels” (Subpart 225-2), and General Provisions (Part 200)		February 2022
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**Potential Items for HQ Cabinet Report:** None currently

**Regional Administrator’s Pending Action Items:**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date Sent to RA’s Office</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
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## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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### CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Items for the Administrator’s action:**

NONE

**Significant Items that the Regional Administrator signed over the last week and/or is expected to sign over the next two weeks:**

NONE

**Hot Topics:**

NONE

**Upcoming:**

## **Ex. 5 Attorney Work Product (AWP)**

**Interagency Meeting on Water Quality Issues on PR Southern Aquifer:** On Friday, January 21, CEPD is convening an interagency meeting to discuss water quality issues at Puerto Rico's Southern Aquifer, particularly in the municipalities of Guayama, Salinas, Arroyo, and Santa Isabel. This interagency meeting includes representatives from PRASA, DNER, DOH, USGS, and EPA (WD, LSASD, LCRD, ECAD, and CEPD). In late September 2021, the Puerto Rico Chemists' Association issued a press release revealing the results of a study on drinking water quality sampling analysis conducted at a number of homes (5) in the Municipalities of Guayama and Salinas. The samples were taken on March 2021 and August 2021. In the press coverage, the Association indicates that even though the presence of contaminants is low and does not exceed regulatory limits, they advised residents that it is not safe to drink water from the aquifer. The Association also concluded that there could be a nexus between AES's coal combustion residuals (CCR) and the contaminants (heavy metals) identified in these drinking water samples. The press announcement received local and national coverage at several news outlets. The President and Public Relations Contact for the Association sent EPA a copy of the drinking water sampling results. The Puerto Rico Chemists Association has also been in conversations with PRASA and the public corporation has been responsive to the Association's requests. In response to the information shared by the Puerto Rico Chemists' Association, CEPD is convening this interagency meeting to gather the most updated data on water quality on the southern aquifer from each of the participating agencies, as well as recommendations for implementing a long term water quality monitoring strategy at specific wells that are of concern to the community and other entities. (POC: C. Guerrero)

**National Climate Assessment - US Caribbean Public Workshop:** CEPD was invited to participate at a virtual public engagement workshop of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and the authors of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5). The workshop to inform the public of the development of this federal climate report. The workshop for the US Caribbean Chapter will take place on January 19, 2022 at 11am-3:30 pm AST. The information

gathered in this workshop will help authors decide which topics to cover in their chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment, a major U.S. Government report on how climate change affects people and places in the United States. (POC: C. Guerrero)

### **Past Week:**

#### ***RECOVERY***

**EPA Input for Congressional 180-Day Congressional Report** - The EPA PR Sustainability Advisor led the effort to gather information from the EPA Region 2 Disaster Recovery Team to highlight accomplishments of EPA Puerto Rico disaster recovery efforts for the second half of 2021 (July 1 – December 2021). This summary report was shared with COR3 and FEMA on January 10, 2022 to be included in the 180-Day Congressional Report. (POC: Norman Rodríguez, CEPD)

#### ***REMOVAL***

**The Battery Recycling Company (BRC), Arecibo, PR** - Current removal activities include treating and discharging liquid from western lagoon. On January 11, 2022, EPA obtained PRASA's approval to discharge the remaining liquid in the lagoon (approximately 100,00 gallons). Approximately 300,000 gallons of liquid has been discharged from the Western lagoon up to date. Shallow excavation in the area of the former storage warehouse and the area located within the Main Production Building is on-going. Contractors are actively treating waste-stream piles and shipping scrap steel for recycling (POCs: C. Huertas, L. DiGuardia, Z. Luna).

**Tallaboa Industrial Park (TIP), Peñuelas, PR** - TIP requested an extension to submit the revised Work Plan by January 15, 2022. At the moment, 320 cubic yards of ACM, 488 cubic yards of impacted soil/vegetation, 28,500 gallons of liquid and 120 cubic yards of non-contaminated material have been removed from the Site. The project is approximately 80% completed (POC: C. Huertas)

#### ***NPDES***

**Implementation of electronic filings under EPA eRule** – CEPD/MPCB and OECA/OC are working on an agreement for the implementation of e-filings under NPDES general permits. Draft memo was provided by HQs, and currently under review. (POC: S. Bosques)

**Comment Period for 4 PRASA NPDES Permits** - Comment period ended on 12/20 for 4 PRASA permits; Cayey WTP, San Lorenzo WTP, Maginas WTP and Vega Alta WWTP. No comments were received. Expected to be finalized end of next week.

#### ***DRINKING WATER***

**ROAR Program Proposals** - Two research project proposals will be submitted for funding consideration. The projects titled: *Assessing treatment type and efficacy in non-public drinking water sources in Puerto Rico* and *Innovative approaches for improved estimates of waterborne disease burden in environmental justice communities of Puerto Rico* aim to address various drinking water quality and public health issues at several Non-PRASA communities.

### **Miscellaneous/Other Items of Special Interest:**

NONE

**Confidential Items:**

NONE

**Upcoming Major Milestones:**

Site	Milestone	Project Manager	Projected Date
Toa Alta Landfill	Toa Alta Landfill Stipulated Order Public Meeting	Various Divisions (ECAD, ORC, PAO, CEPD)	TBD (potentially February)

**Potential Items for HQ Cabinet Report:**

NONE

**Regional Administrator's Pending Action Items:**

NONE

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**LAND, CHEMICALS AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

**Items for the Administrator's Action:** None

**Significant Items that the Regional Administrator Signed:** None

**Hot Topics:**

**C&D Technologies, Huguenot, NY:** A public notice of the draft Approval of the PCB cleanup plan for public review and comment is scheduled to begin January 26, 2022 for 30 days. The comment period will close on February 25, 2022.

**Former Kinder Morgan Terminal, Staten Island, NY:** The demolition of 38 above ground oil storage tanks (AST) was completed, and the main building is being demolished this week. No exceedances of particulate matters and volatile organics were detected in five air monitoring stations during the demolition. North Point is conducting an accelerated soil and groundwater investigation of the site to delineate vertical contamination underneath the former ASTs, and beyond the operational area including a large vegetation area, before implementing corrective action. Soil borings and groundwater data have been submitted and is being reviewed jointly by EPA and DEC. A remedial action decision tree describing the approach to be used in the remediation process was submitted and is also under review. We anticipate the completion of the cleanup in 2023 and the redevelopment of the site in 2024. This project is a joint effort with NYSDEC in which we are actively participating in reviewing and approving work plans, and

other pertinent documents in accordance with both the EPA 3008(h) Order and NYSDEC Closure Order. We hold biweekly technical meetings to discuss progress of this project. Northpoint has assumed responsibilities established in the EPA 3008(h) Order, and ORC has completed an amended version of the 3008(h) Order to include North Point along its associates as responsible parties. A meeting with the facility and DEC will be held on January 26 to discuss compliance with the EPA Order.

**Upcoming:** None

**Past Week:** None

**Miscellaneous/Other Items of Special Interest:** None

**Confidential Items:** None

**Upcoming Major Milestones:**

Site	Milestone	Project Manager	Projected Date
C&D Technologies, Huguenot, NY	Public Notice the PCB Risk-Based Cleanup and Disposal Approval	Wilfredo Palomino	January 28, 2022

**Potential Items for HQ Cabinet Report:** None

**Regional Administrator's Pending Action Items:** None

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### Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division

**Items for the Administrator's action, decision and/or signing over the next two weeks, in chronological order, including a point of contact with email address and phone number for follow-up by the AO:** None

**Significant Items that the Regional Administrator signed over the last week and/or is expected to sign over the next two weeks, in chronological order, including a point of contact with email address and phone number for follow-up by the AO:** None

**Hot Topics:**

**Upcoming:**

**Monitoring & Assessment Branch:**

**Meet the QA Team, Session 2 for the Long Island Sound Study Partnership:**

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Air and Water Quality Assurance Team will participate along with EPA Region 1 program and QA staff in conducting Session 2 to ensure the proper implementation of the Agency's QA requirements with the grant recipients for the Long Island Sound Study Partnership. (POC: S. Rao)

**SharePoint QA Document Tracking Demonstration:**

A demonstration of the Air and Water QA Team's QA Document Tracking System will be provided to the GLNPO contractor GDIT and the Region 5 RQAM. This will be further discussed to determine how to leverage their current tracking system and integrate with SharePoint and ELMS metrics. (POC: C. Lynes)

**Region 2 Laboratory Branch:**

The Laboratory will receive samples this week for the following projects:

Superfund Projects:

US Radium

Price Landfill

(POC: N. Tirol)

**Hazardous Waste Support Branch:**

**HWSB-HWSS: Data Validation Projects Scheduled:**

Matlack Inc., Woolwich Township, NJ

Mansfield Trail Dump, Byram, NJ

Battery Recycling, ARECIBO, PR

Gennesey Valley Metals Finishing, Rochester, NY

(POC: N. Kumar)

**HWSB-SST Superfund Sampling Projects:**

White Swan Laundry & Cleaner Inc., PFAS GW Sampling, Wall Twp., NJ	Jan 24-27, 2022
Diamond Head GW sampling, Kearny, NJ	March 7-10, 2022
Cosden Chemical Coatings, PFAS GW Sampling, Beverly, NJ	April 4-7, 2022
Imperial Oil, GW Sampling, Morganville, NJ	April 18-21, 2022
Zschiegner GW sampling, Howell, NJ	May 2-5, 2022
Waldick Aerospace GW sampling, Wall, NJ	May 16-19, 2022



Robintech GW PDB deployment, Vestal, NY	May 16-19, 2022
Arsenic Mines PPW sampling, Kent, NY	May 23-26, 2022
Vineland Beach SW/SED sampling, Vineland, NJ	July 18-22, 2022
Hopewell Precision GW sampling, Hopewell, NY	Sept 12-15, 2022

(POC: A. Jackson)

**Past Week:**

**Monitoring & Assessment Branch:**

**Meet the QA Team, Session 1 for the Long Island Sound Study Partnership:** The Air and Water Quality Assurance Team participated along with EPA Region 1 in conducting an introductory session for the Long Island Sound Study Partnership. The first session was conducted on January 13th and was attended by over 70 LIS grant recipients. During this session, the EPA R1 and R2 QA team was introduced to the grant recipients, an overview of QAPPs (what they are and why they are required) and their submission through review process and the timeline of the process was provided. In addition, a breakout session was held to discuss lessons learned. The session also provided an opportunity for the attendees to raise their questions and concerns during QAPP development. (POC: S. Rao).

**QAPP for Watershed Plan for the Hutchinson River Westchester County –** The Air and Water Quality Assurance Team reviewed this QAPP and was approved by EPA on January 14, 2022. This project plans to develop a watershed plan for the 5,430-Acre portion of the Hutchinson River, this plan will identify sources of nonpoint source pollution and implementable practices to improve water quality and watershed resilience. (POC: S. Rao)

**WINN 2105 Grant - Newark Board of Education Reduction in Lead Exposure:** The Air and Water Quality Assurance Team participated with the EPA Project Officer and Grantee to discuss QAPP requirements related to remediation in drinking water piping. (POC: E. Smieszek)

**QAPP for the Collection and Analysis of Water Quality and Biological and Monitoring around the USVI:** The Air and Water Quality Assurance Team received this QAPP which plans to collect, analyze, identify data gaps and provide suggestions to address data gaps for coral reef and seagrass habitats. (POC: E. Smieszek)

**TNI/EPA Drinking Water Laboratory Certification:** Document reviews for the NELAC Institute (TNI) Technical Review and Evaluation of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Drinking Water Program have been completed. The review team included the EPA DW Certification Program Manager, evaluators from the Florida Department of Health, and contracted TNI evaluators. No significant issues have been found. The next step is to schedule the virtual audit with the NJDEP QA Manager, COs, and staff. (POC: B. Hulme)

**Drinking Water Laboratory Certification:** Document review of the Region 2 Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program's triennial assessment was completed. This is being conducted by the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) Technical Support Center (TSC), with the assistance of a private drinking water contractor, the Cadmus Group. Interviews

with the EPA R2 COs and Certification Program Manager will be held on 1/27/22. (POC: B. Hulme)

**Hazardous Waste Support Branch:**

**HWSSB-HWSS: Superfund/Brownfields QAPPs & Technical Documents Received:**

Brownfields: None

Superfund:

Fair Lawn Well Field Revised QAPP

Cinnaminson Township GW Contamination Removal QAPP

(POC: D. Ringel)

**HWSSB-HWSS: Superfund/Brownfields QAPPs & Technical Documents Completed:**

Brownfields:

None

Superfund:

Cinnaminson Township GW Groundwater Contamination Removal QAPP

(POC: D. Ringel)

**Miscellaneous/Other Items of Special Interest:**

**Confidential Items:** None

**Upcoming Major Milestones:** None

**Potential Items for HQ Cabinet Report:** None

**Regional Administrator's Pending Action Items:** None

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**Strategic Programs Highlights**

**Items for the Administrator's action:**

None

**Significant Items that the Regional Administrator signed:**

None

**Hot Topics:**

R2 RA Garcia is scheduled to participate in a joint signing of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Performance Partnership Agreement on January 25.

### **Upcoming:**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

A draft of the Regional EJ Work Plan will be completed by January 21. This is an all-division effort. The RA will be briefed on the plan on January 27 during a meeting of the R2 EJ Work Group and Senior Management Advisory Council. [D. Kluesner, T. Boutin]

## **LEAD ACTION PLAN**

A draft of the Regional Lead Action Plan will be completed by January 24. This is an all-division effort. The RA will be briefed on the plan on January 25 and submitted to the Administrator's Office by the due date of January 31. A Region 2 listening session on the [ [HYPERLINK "https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/R2\\_Work/launchpad/Shared%20Documents/Strategic%20Programs/Weekly%20Reports%202022/draft%20Strategy%20to%20Reduce%20Lead%20Exposures%20and%20Disparities%20in%20U.S.%20Communities"](https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/R2_Work/launchpad/Shared%20Documents/Strategic%20Programs/Weekly%20Reports%202022/draft%20Strategy%20to%20Reduce%20Lead%20Exposures%20and%20Disparities%20in%20U.S.%20Communities) ] will be held on February 10. [D. Kluesner, A. Schaffer]

## **INDIAN NATIONS**

### **Indian Nation Grant and Program Review Meetings**

The following Program Review Meetings are scheduled for January and February 2022:

- Seneca Nation of Indians: January 19 & 20
- Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force (HETF): February 9 & 10
- Shinnecock Indian Nation: February 16 & 17
- Oneida Indian Nation: TBD

[G. Jonathan]

## **AGRICULTURE**

**Final Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC) Recommendations:** The meeting scheduled with FRRCC Leadership and the Administrator on Jan 12 was postponed to Jan 26. However, the FRRCC released the final recommendations, which have been posted to the [ [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/faca/frrcc-2020-2022-committee-reports"](https://www.epa.gov/faca/frrcc-2020-2022-committee-reports) ] The recommendations focus on *Water Quality and Quantity* (Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and developing an Ecosystem Management system with the U.S. Department of Agriculture), *Pesticides* (communicating about EPA's holistic approach to pesticide management and reducing barriers to bringing crop protection tools), and *Food Loss and Food Waste* (a variety of recommendations including better defining issues, dedicating funding and guidance, cross-governmental collaboration, financing, education and research).

[R. Nyman]

## **DISASTER RECOVERY & MITIGATION**

**The New York/New Jersey Federal Leadership Resilience Collaborative (Collaborative):** FEMA is planning to host the next meeting of the Collaborative on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00pm. As way of background, the Collaborative was initiated by FEMA during Superstorm Sandy in order to share information and synchronize recovery projects to lead, promote, and

realize increase regional resilience in a sustainable manner. This is accomplished through regular executive level and technical working group meetings at which agencies share technical and planning information to foster well-informed decisions, identify constraints and reconcile policies when feasible, align efforts to achieve major milestones, and flag potential legal and regulatory changes that would maximize resilience and interagency coordination. In the event of anticipated or declared disasters, these meetings may also serve as the forum for additional discussions to facilitate coordination in preparation for impending events or in response to unexpected events. [R. Kieber]

### **Past Week:**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS**

**Federal Aviation Administration - Port Authority NY/NJ Signature Flight Corporation Hangar Construction Project - Teterboro Airport, New Jersey:** The Environmental Review Team is reviewing an Environmental Assessment prepared by the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey for the Federal Aviation Administration. The scope of work includes the construction of a new airport hangar and apron for expanded airplane capacity and parking as well as additional office space for operations. ERT is collaborating with the Wetlands Division (POC: Marco Finocchiaro) to complete the review before February 2022. [A. Benjamin, M. Austin]

## **COMMUNITY DRIVEN SOLUTIONS**

**Ezra Prentice Homes Meeting:** Strategic Programs and the Air and Radiation Division met with the Ezra Prentice Community Meeting Planning Committee on January 13 to continue planning the community meeting for mid- to late-February. The committee is composed of members from the NYS DEC, Albany Housing Authority, HUD, NYS DOH, and the Albany Port Authority, as well as County Legislator Carolyn McLaughlin. Colleen Williams, District Director for Congressman Paul Tonko, has also agreed to attend the planning sessions, coordinated through PAO. The community meeting will be a follow up action on Administrator Regan's visit to Ezra Prentice Homes in Albany, NY in August 2021. SPO will coordinate at least two additional planning meetings prior to the listening session. [N. Alexander, A. Mehta-Sampath, D. Kluesner]

**Cumulative Impacts Research Context and Recommendations:** Strategic Programs staff reviewed the interim internal draft white paper prepared by ORD's Cumulative Impacts Scoping Workgroup, intended to strengthen the scientific foundation for assessing cumulative exposures, impacts and risks to overburdened communities through existing and new methods, tools, data and monitoring. The resulting recommendations in the white paper relate to many efforts underway in R2 to inform our community and EJ work and decision-making. Within SPO, many of our programs currently incorporate similar data-informed, holistic approaches to best serve communities. By working to establish more accurate baseline conditions, addressing critical data gaps, and combining quantitative and qualitative data on chemical and non-chemical stressors and health outcomes, we are positioned to more accurately evaluate the health burden, vulnerabilities and potential resiliency of communities. [S. Nyer, K. Bell, A. Mehta-Sampath].

## **INDIAN NATIONS**

**Indian Nation Grant and Program Review Meeting:** A Program Review Meeting was held with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe on January 11 & 12.

#### **DISASTER RECOVERY & MITIGATION**

**The Federal Plan for Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience (Plan):** As part of Strategic Programs support to the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), we are reviewing the Plan which presents a suite of recommendations for how the federal government can work together to promote resilient individuals and communities. It enables federal departments and agencies to advance their respective roles in service of people beyond sector-specific outcomes; instead, focusing primarily on a common vision for an equitable future – in which all people and places thrive. [R. Kieber]

**Hurricanes Irma and Maria:** EPA Region 2 staff participated in the RSFLG Energy Subgroup staff level meeting. At the meeting, HUD noted that at the end of the month there will be a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, and the Government of Puerto Rico to formalize the agencies' commitment to aligning HUD and FEMA funding with long-term resilience and renewable energy objectives. It was also noted that Gretchen Sierra-Zorita, Associate Director for Puerto Rico and the Territories would like to participate in the SES level RSFLG Energy sub-group meetings. Additionally, the Department of Interior is going to set up a meeting at the beginning of February, for the sub-group agencies to meet with the Governor of the US Virgin Islands when he is in D.C. [J. Gutierrez, H. Velez and R. Kieber]

**Unified Federal Review:** Strategic Programs staff participated in the PR Unified Federal Review (UFR) meeting. FEMA discussed EPA's involvement with the Carraízo dredging project and dredge material characterization report. A draft Environmental Assessment is expected to be published for public comment and interagency review in February 2022. As a note, Arielle Benjamin is the Caribbean UFR lead for the Region. [A. Benjamin, R. Kieber]

#### **Miscellaneous/Other Items of Special Interest:**

##### **Confidential Items:**

##### **Upcoming Major Milestones:**

January 31, 2022 - Draft Regional Lead Action Strategy to AO

##### **Potential Items for HQ Cabinet Report:**

None

##### **Regional Administrator's Pending Action Items:**

None

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#### **Water Division Highlights**

##### **Items for the Administrator's Action:** N/A

**Significant Items that the Regional Administrator Signed:** N/A

**Hot Topics:** N/A

**Upcoming:**

**Long Island Sound Management Committee:** The Management Committee will hold its next meeting on January 20. The meeting will focus on the FY 2022 Work Plan and Budget development process, including the \$21.2 million in infrastructure funding and the direct Long Island Sound appropriations that will likely range from \$30-40 million. EPA will present the current list of work plans and budgets and discuss where additional investments are needed. Based on the committee's discussion, the program will work with partners to supplement and refine the budget package in the next two months. The goal is to have a full work plan and budget proposal for Management Committee approval at its April meeting. (POC: M. Tedesco)

**Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) Executive Committee Meeting:** The LCBP Executive Committee will meet on January 20. Topics on the agenda include the review of the FY 2022 budget. Note: The FY 22 LCBP budget is \$28M (\$20M in Clean Water Act Section 120 funds + \$8M Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds), with \$6M of the CWA 120 funds going towards the Vermont TMDL implementation. If there is a continuing resolution for the rest of the FY, then the CWA 120 funding will be funded at FY 21 levels, \$15M with \$6M dedicated for Vermont TMDL implementation, + \$ 8M in BIL funding, \$23M total. (POC: M. Paula)

**Chesapeake Bay Milestone Commitments and Milestone Progress Report:** The Chesapeake Bay Program 2022-2023 milestone commitments are due from each of the Bay jurisdictions on January 15. The jurisdictions will also submit their final progress reports for the 2020-2021 milestone period. (POC: M. Lambrix)

**Past Week:**

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

**Expanded Conservation Program Opportunities for Climate-Smart Agriculture:** On January 10, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service announced several new and expanded opportunities for climate-smart agriculture in 2022. Two significant updates include the nationwide availability of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract options and the flexibility for producers to re-enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program. Conservation Incentive Contracts options are annual

incentive payments to producers who implement, monitor and evaluate management practices that target priority natural resource concerns. (POCs: R. Nyman and M. Flood)

**New Jersey List of Water Quality Limited Waters Required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act:** On January 11, Region 2 fully approved [ [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/new-jersey-impaired-waters-list"](https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/new-jersey-impaired-waters-list) ] The list includes 2504 waterbody/pollutant combinations. New Jersey did not make any changes from the draft 2020 list to the final list. New Jersey submitted its *2020 New Jersey Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report* electronically through the EPA's Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load Tracking and Implementation System on December 15, 2021. The EPA's approval was within the 30-day window required by the EPA's regulations. (POC: J. Ríos)

**Peconic Estuary Management Committee (MC) Meeting:** The MC for the Peconic Estuary Partnership met on January 12 to review the draft budget for next year and to hear project updates. The MC will review a final budget proposal at its next meeting on April 13 for Clean Water Act Section 320 base funds (based on the continuing resolution amount of \$700K or a FY22 budget target of \$750K). The MC also approved three Bipartisan Infrastructure Law projects for when those funds are made available (estimated at \$912K per year for 5 years). These projects are for Meetinghouse Creek Wetland Restoration Construction, a Sag Harbor Nonpoint Source Pollution Stormwater Management Plan, and a Town of Southold Goose Creek Sub-watershed Peconic Discharge Elimination Plan. (POCs: A. Boucher and R. Nyman)

**Miscellaneous/Other Items of Special Interest:**

**Camden, NJ Lead Service Line Identification Study:** This week, in follow-up to a discussion with Region 2, ORD and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on December 15<sup>th</sup>, the City of Camden and NJAW informed EPA that they will not be participating in a study analyzing drinking water samples to try to identify lead service lines. The city and NJAW previously expressed concerns about how to communicate the study and its results to residents in addition to additional requirements under the Revised Lead and Copper Rule, as well as the State of New Jersey's pending Lead and Copper Rule, and compliance monitoring (which requires collecting tap samples in residents' homes). (POC: C. Ash)

**Upcoming Major Milestones:**

Site	Milestone	Project Manager	Projected Date
	Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)	D. Gurdak	Second quarter

**Potential Items for HQ Cabinet Report:** N/A

**Regional Administrator's Pending Action Items:** N/A